Development of a Laboratory-Scale Test for Evaluating the Decomposition Products Generated Inside an Intact Fuselage During a Simulated Postcrash Fuel Fire



Louise C. Speitel/ Timothy Marker

Fire Safety Branch
FAA William J. Hughes Technical Center
Atlantic City International Airport, NJ 08405 USA

Louise.Speitel@faa.gov

The Fifth Triennial International Fire & Cabin Safety
Research Conference
Atlantic City, New Jersey
October 29- November 1, 2007

Outline



- Purpose
- Background
- Laboratory Scale Test Rig for Evaluation of Buildup of:
 - **≻**Toxic Gases
 - > Flammable Gases
- Insulation Systems Tested
- Gas Sampling Methodology
- Gases Measured
- Methods of Analysis
- Results
- Coclusions

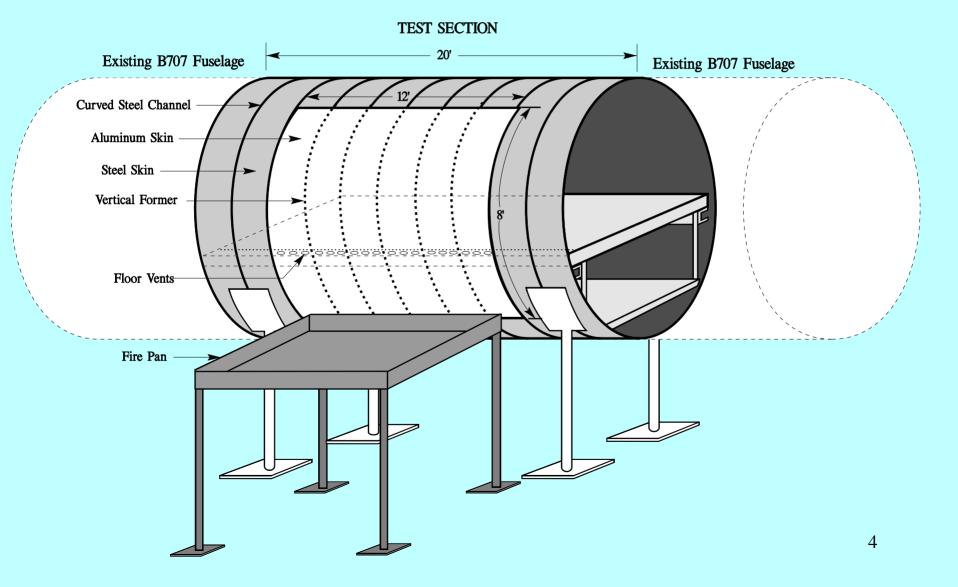
Purpose



- Develop a laboratory-scale test to evaluate the thermal decomposition products that accumulate inside an intact transport category fuselage during exposure to a simulated external fuel fire.
- Perform this test on:
 - > Two thermal acoustical insulation configurations.
 - ➤ A prototype structural composite material (without thermal acoustic insulation.
- Measure buildup of gases within test enclosure.
 - > Toxic gases
 - > Flammable gases
- Compare test results for the 3 material systems.
- Subsequent tests will be conducted on a fire-hardened Full-Scale Burntrough Test Rig to provide a scaling factor for gas concentration data.

Background Full-Scale Fuselage Burnthrough Test Rig

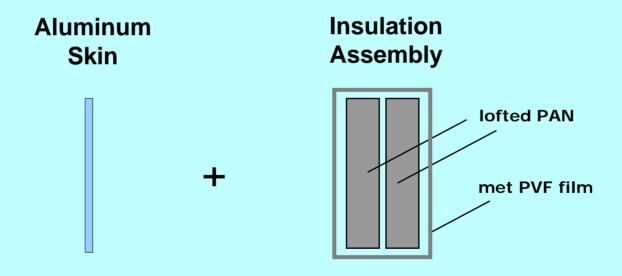




Background



B-707 Burnthrough Test of Polyacrylonitrile (PAN) Insulation Assembly

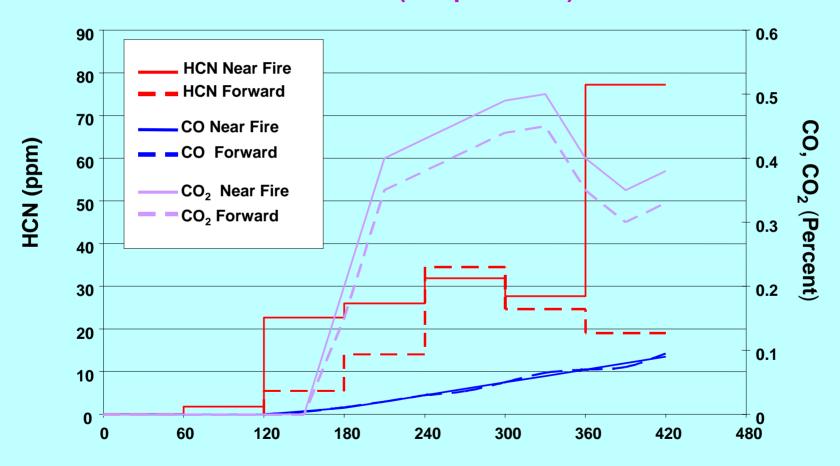


HCN, CO and CO₂ Measured During Full-Scale Test With Polyacrylonitrile Insulation



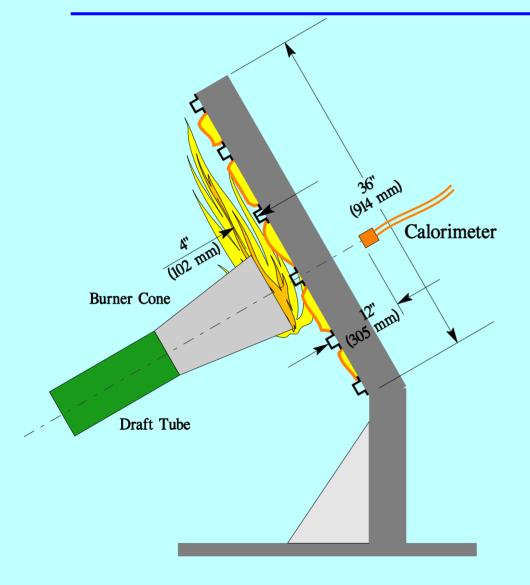
1.5 inch Curlon FB-300SA with AN-18R Tedlar film with polyester reinforcement

Fractional Effective Dose (Incapacitation) at 5 minutes = 0.1



Insulation Burnthrough Test Apparatus



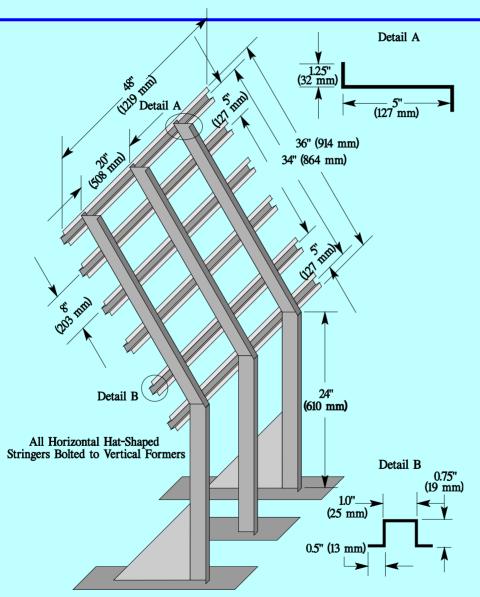


Flame Temperature = 1900° F Heat Flux = 16.0 Btu/ft²sec

- This configuration yielded results that correlated with previous full scale tests that used identical materials
- Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 25.856(b)

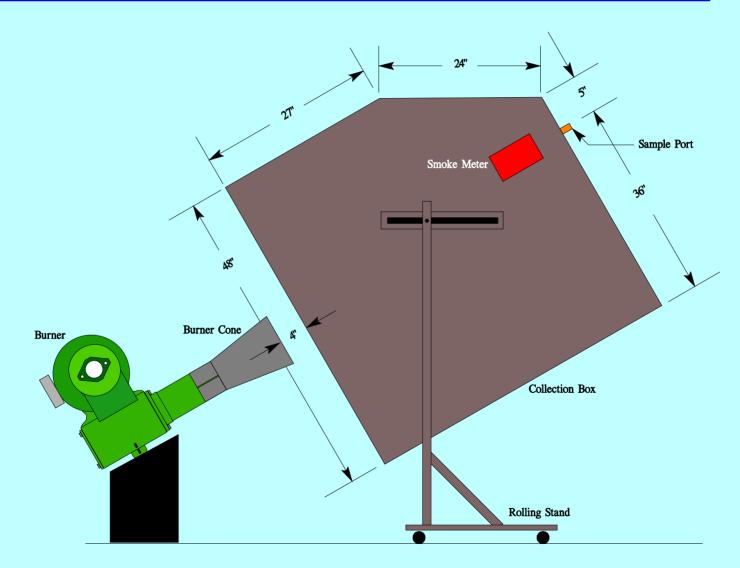
Insulation Burnthrough Test Sample Holder





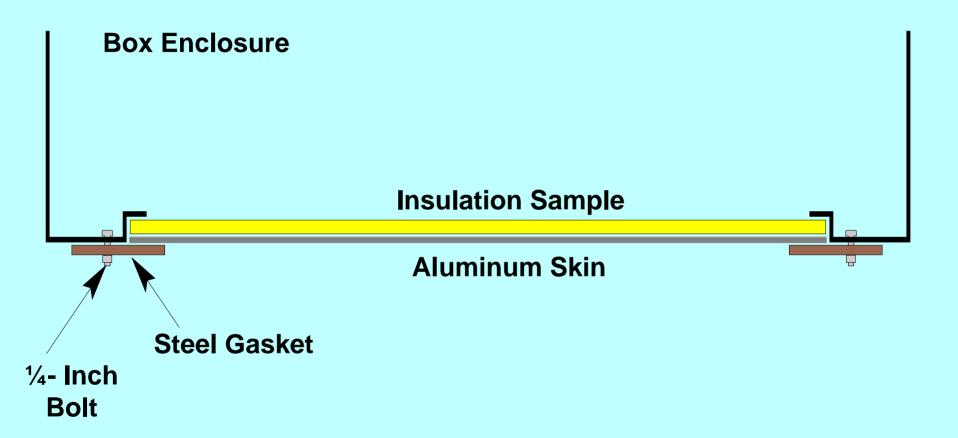
Test Apparatus for Evaluating the Toxicity of Insulation Materials





Box Enclosure Mounting System

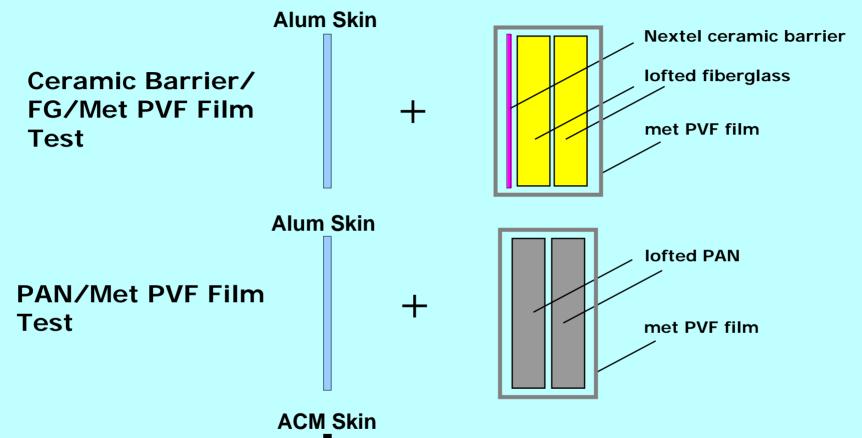




Sample Size: 40- by 40 inch

Material Systems Tested





Advanced Composite Material Test

Gases Measured by FTIR

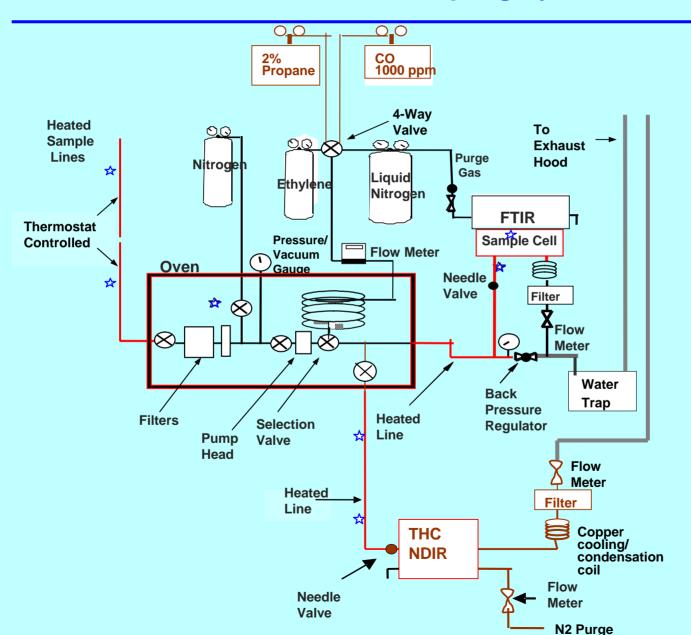


Toxic Gases	
C6H5NH2	aniline
С6Н5ОН	phenol
C6H6	benzene
CH2CHCHO	acrolein
CH4	methane
СО	carbon monoxide
CO2	carbon dioxide
COCI2	phosgene
COF2	carbonyl fluoride
cos	carbonyl sulfide
HBr	hydrogen bromide
HCI	hydrogen chloride
HCN	Hydrogen cyanide
HF	Hydrofluoric acid
NH3	ammonia
NO	nitrogen oxide
NO2	nitrogen dioxide
SO2	sulfur dioxide

Flammable Gases		
C2H2	acetylene	
C2H4	ethylene	
C2H6	ethane	
C3H8	propane	
C6H5NH2	aniline	
С6Н5ОН	phenol	
С6Н6	benzene	
CH2CHCHO	acrolein	
CH4	methane	
Other Gases		
CO2	carbon dioxide	
H2O	water	
N2O	nitrous oxide	

FTIR and THC Sampling System





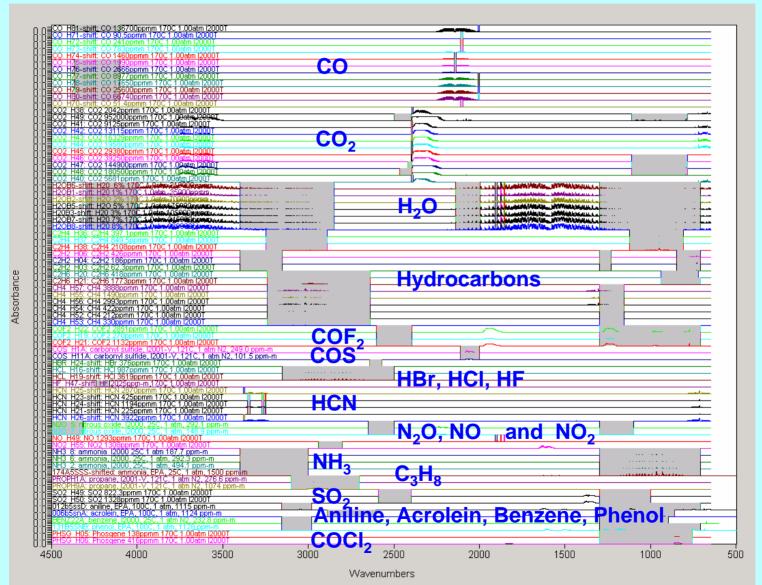
FTIR Spectometer



Optical path of sample cell	4-meters
Cell volume	160ml
Cell Temperature	170°C
Optics	ZnSe with germanium coating
Detector	Liquid Nitrogen cooled Mercury Cadmium Telluride
All interface Optics	Gold coated
Mode	Extractive
Resolution	0.5 cm-1
Sample rate	16 scans averaged every 9 seconds
FTIR Software	Midac Autoquant Pro

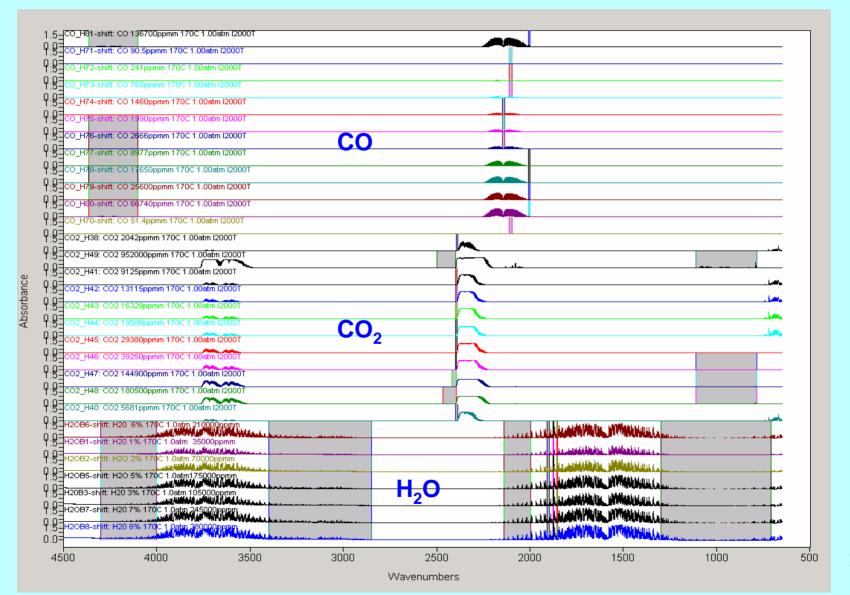
Calibration Spectra and Selected Regions for FTIR Analysis





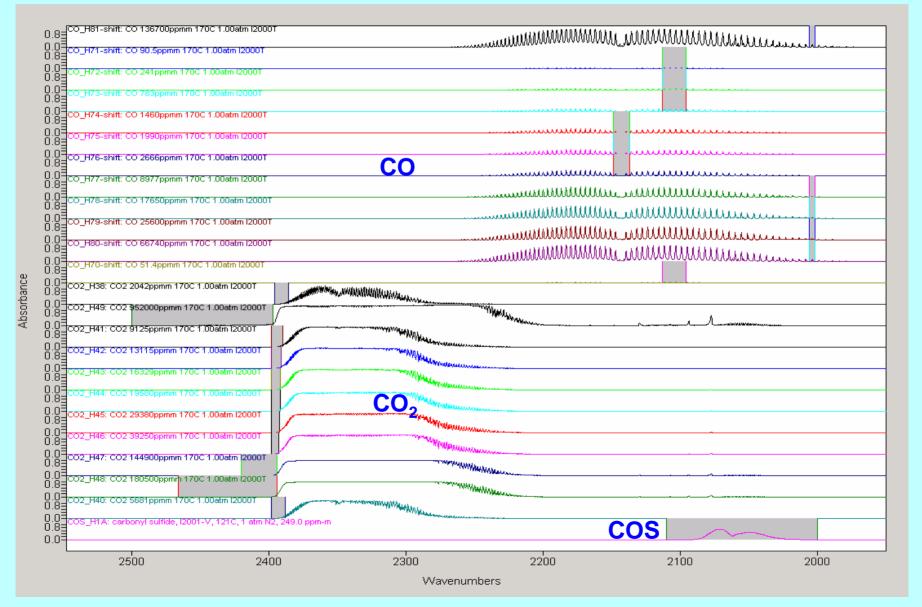
CO and CO₂ and Water Spectra and Regions





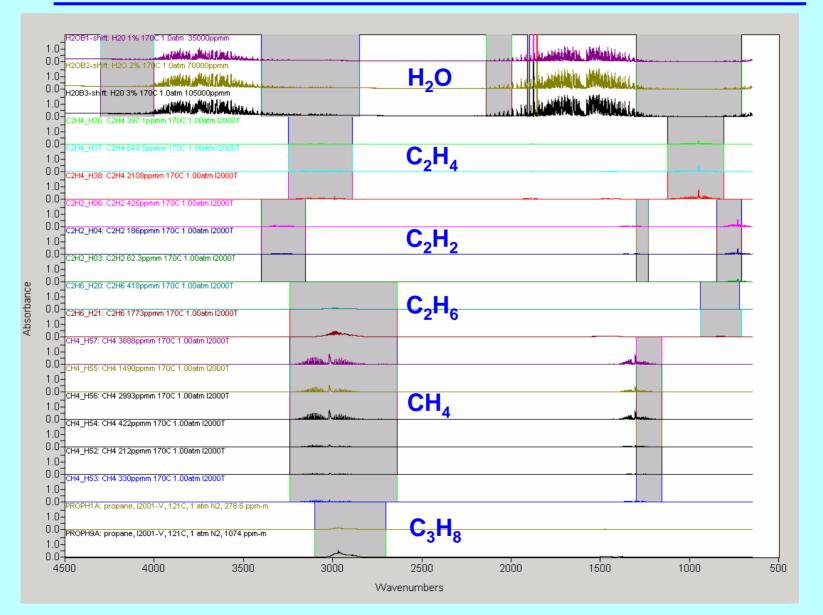
CO, CO₂ and COS Spectra and Regions Expanded View





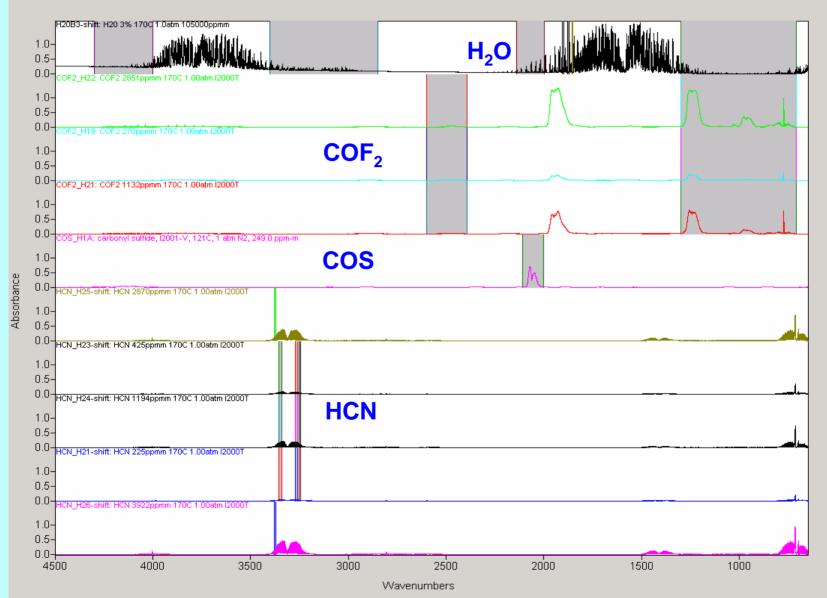
H₂0, C₂H₄, C₂H₂, C₂H₆, CH₄, and C₃H₈ Spectra and Regions





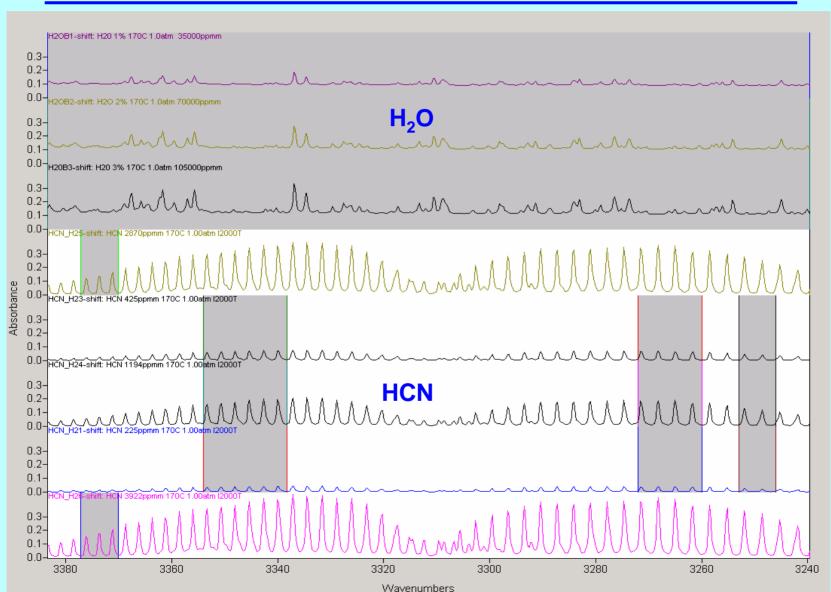
H₂0, COF₂, COS, and HCN Spectra and Regions





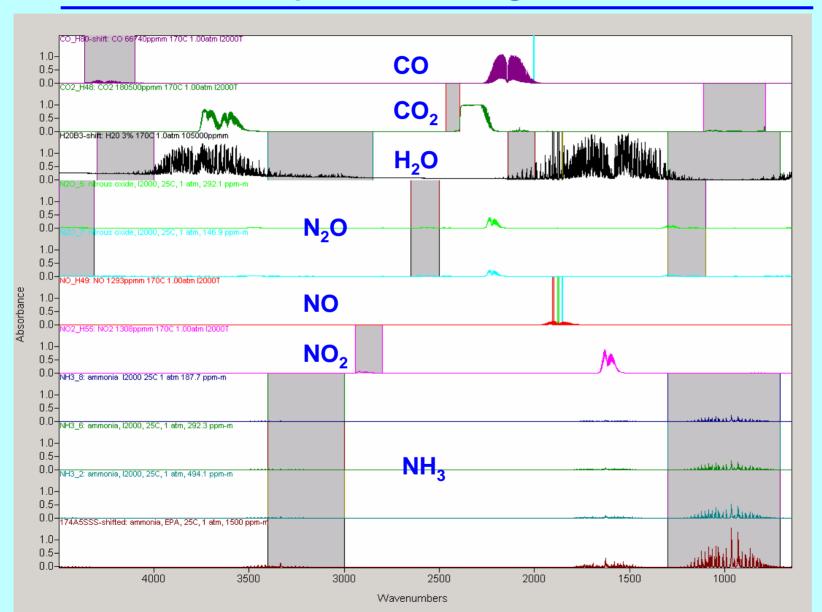
H₂0 and HCN: Expanded View





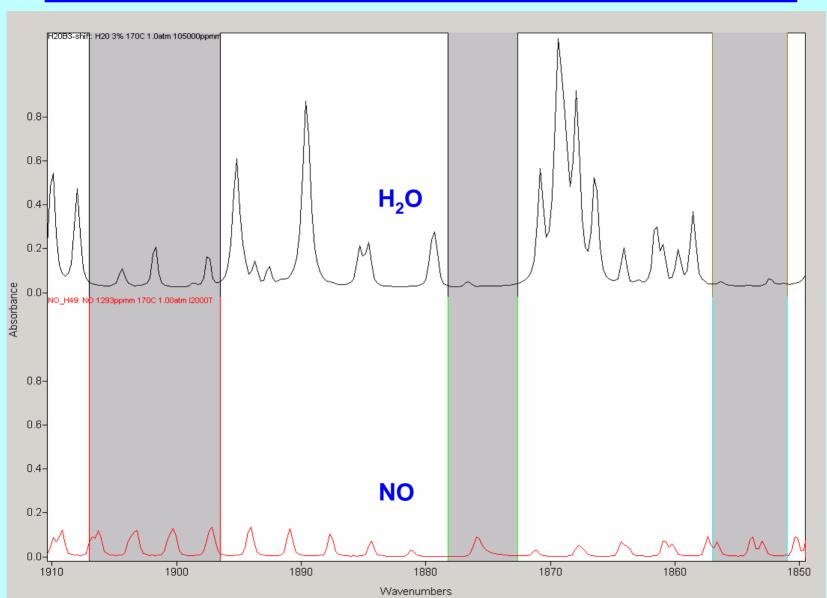
N₂O, NO, NO₂ and NH₃ Spectra and Regions





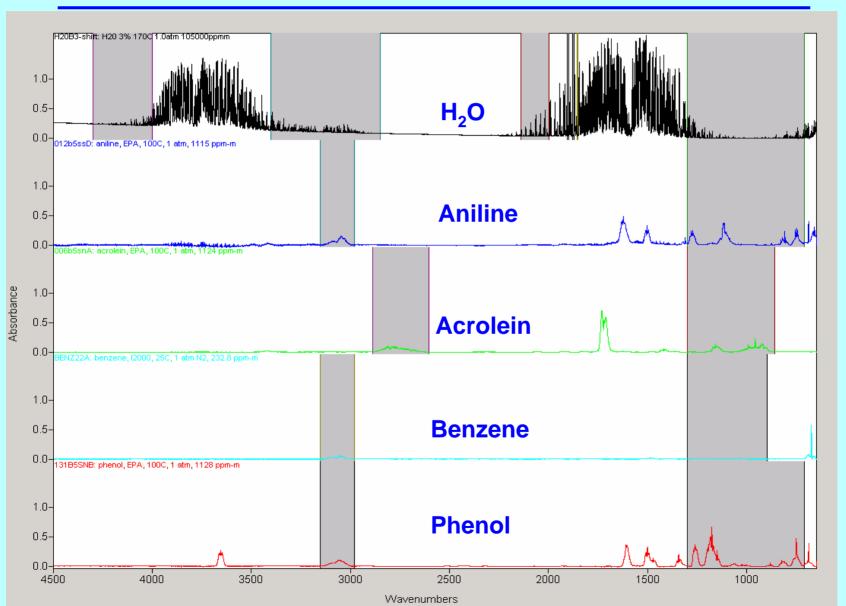
H₂0 and NO: Expanded View





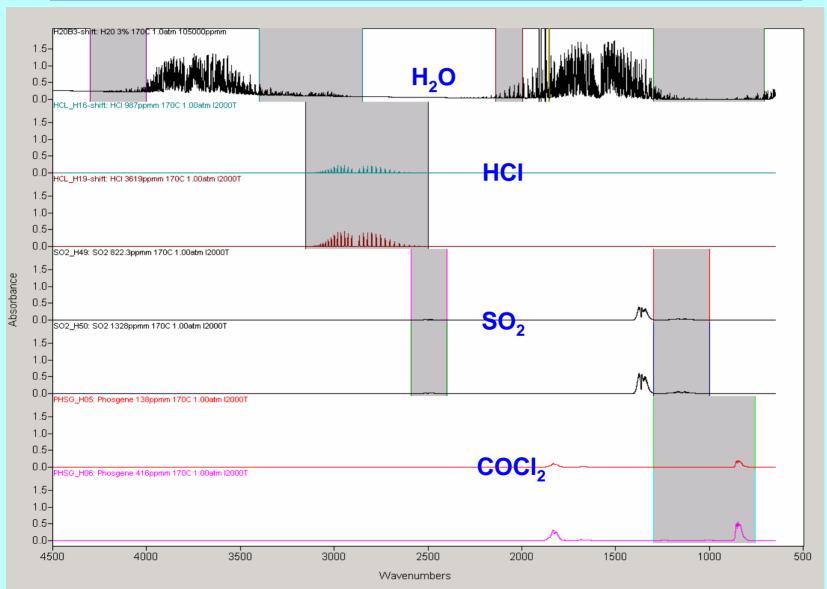
H₂0, Aniline, Acrolein, Benzene, and Phenol Spectra and Regions





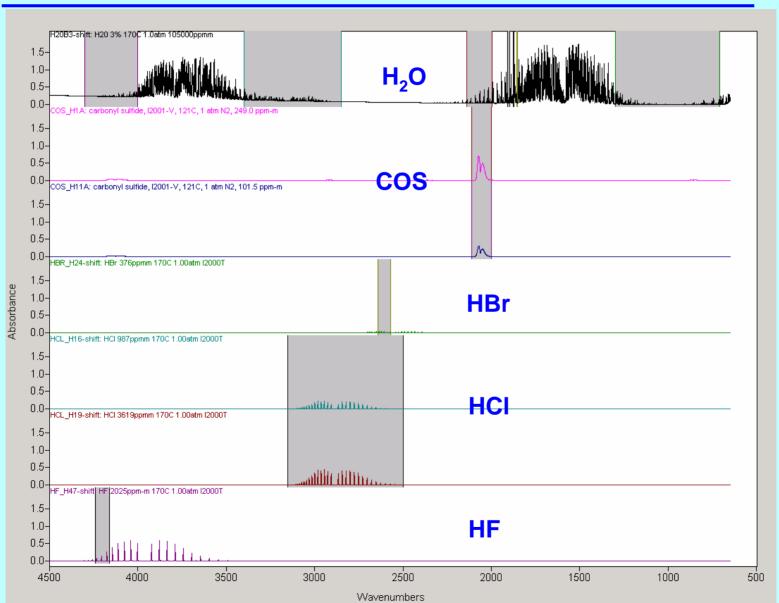
H₂0, HCl, SO₂ and COCl₂ Spectra and Regions





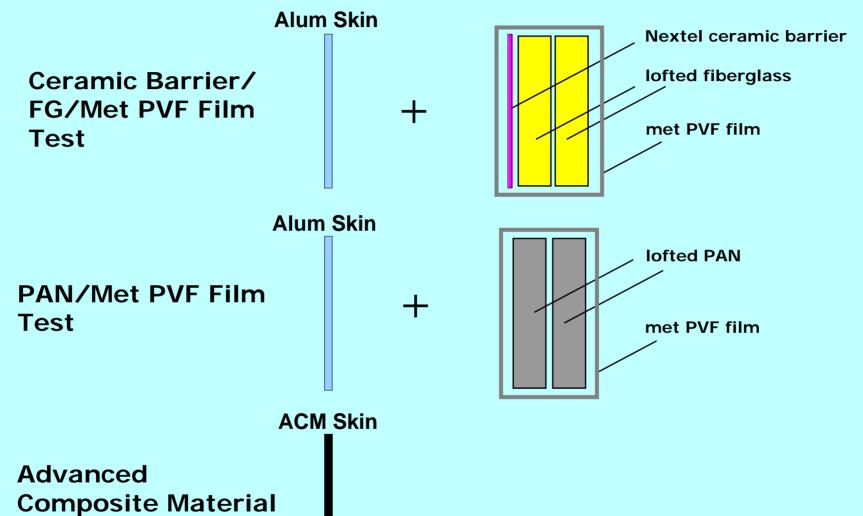
H₂0, COS, HBr, HCl and HF Spectra and Regions





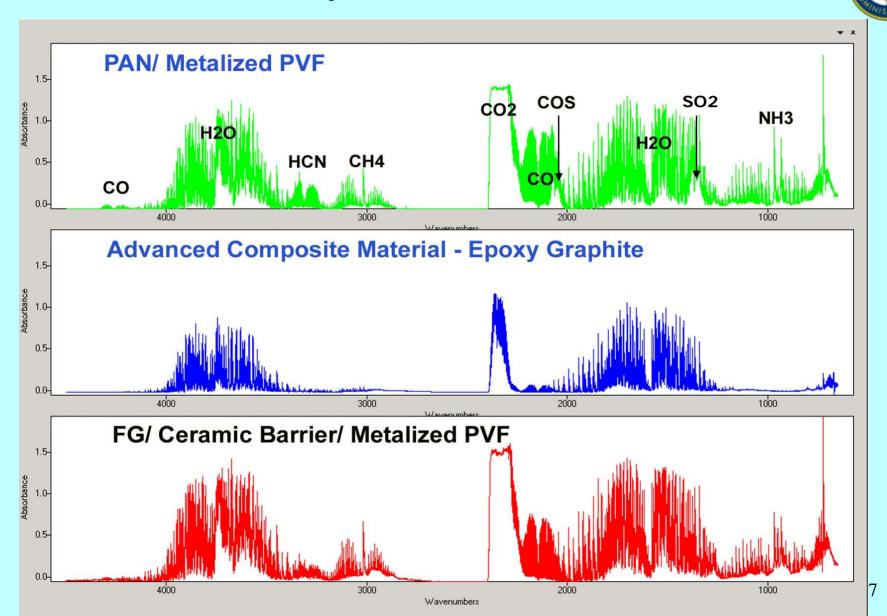
Material Systems Tested





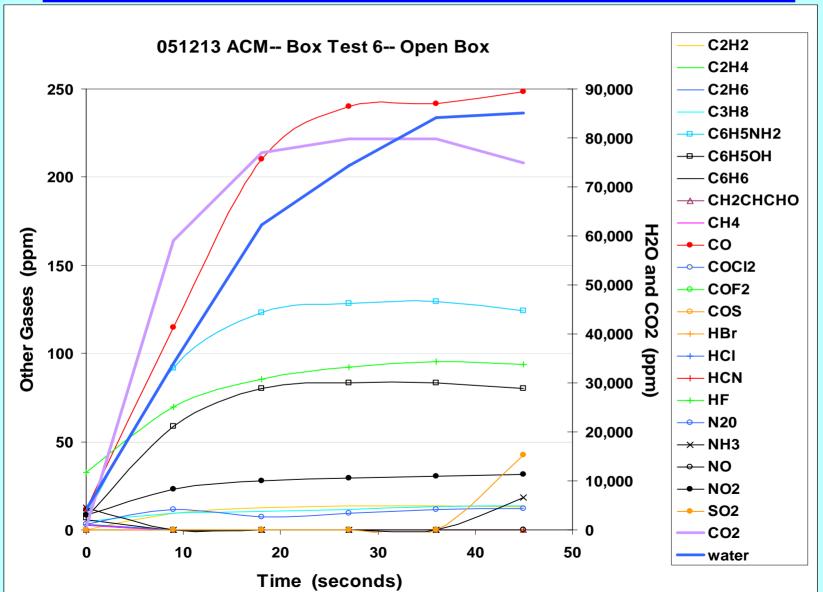
Test

Spectra at 5 Minutes



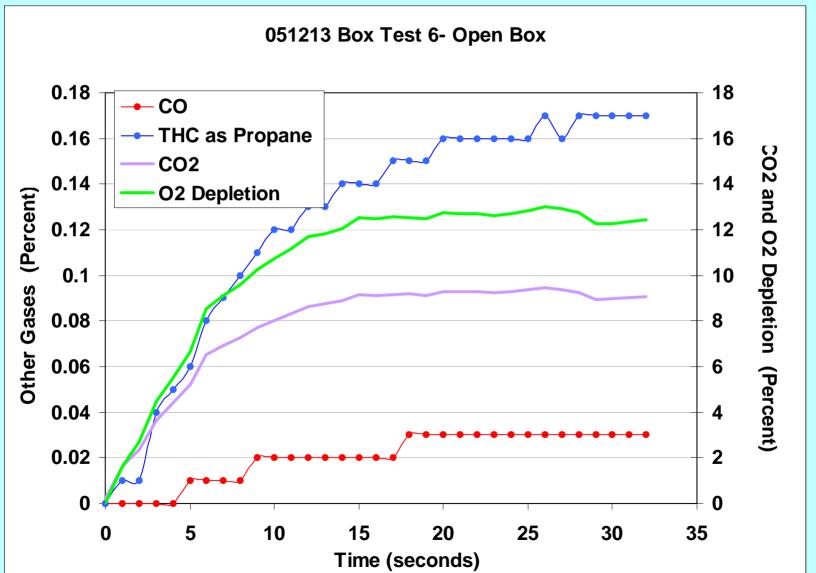
Concentration Histories for Open-Box Test Obtained by FTIR Analysis





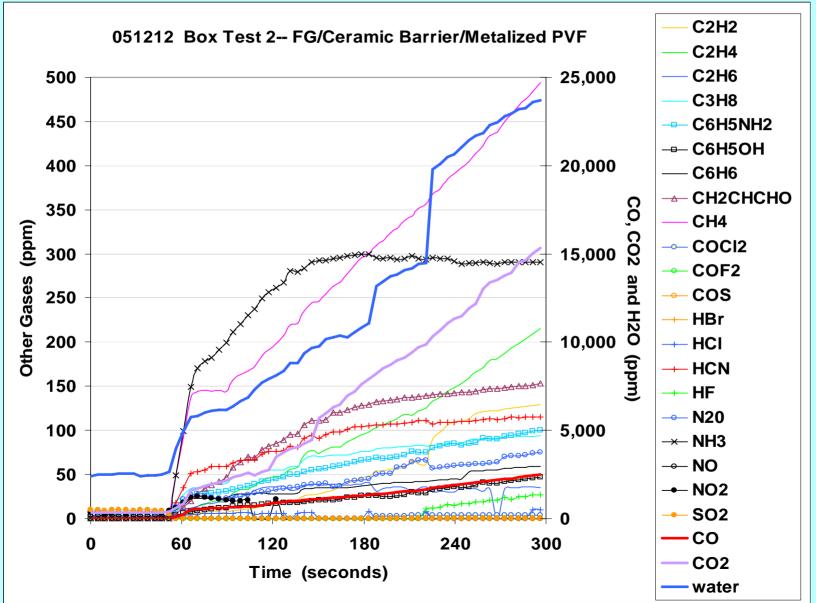
Concentration Histories for Open-Box Test Obtained by Gas Analyzers





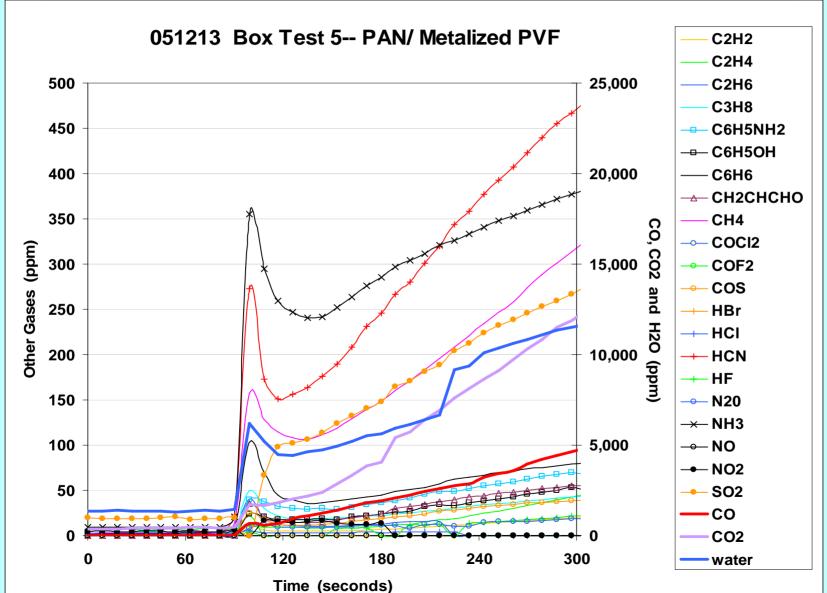
Concentration Histories of FG/Ceramic Barrier Insulation System Box Test Obtained by FTIR Analysis





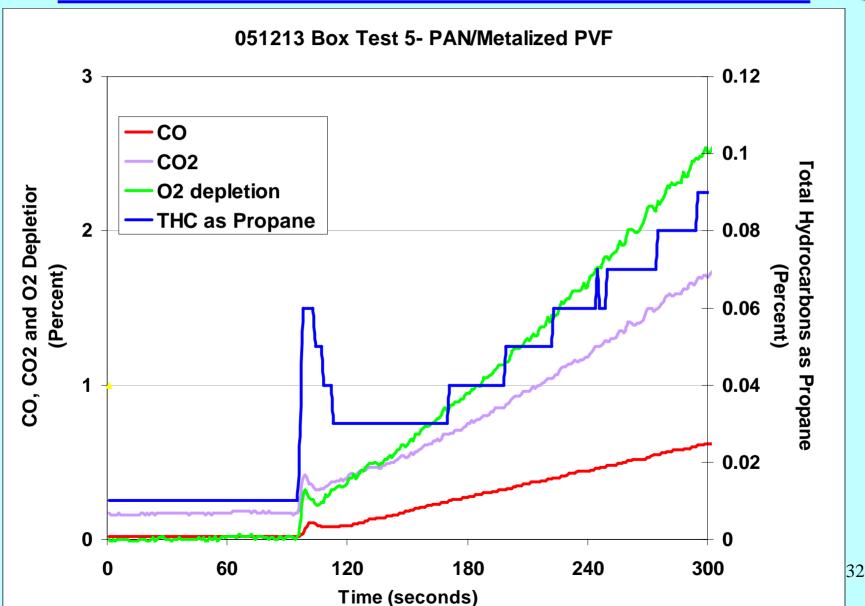
Concentration Histories of PAN Insulation System Box Test Obtained by FTIR Analysis





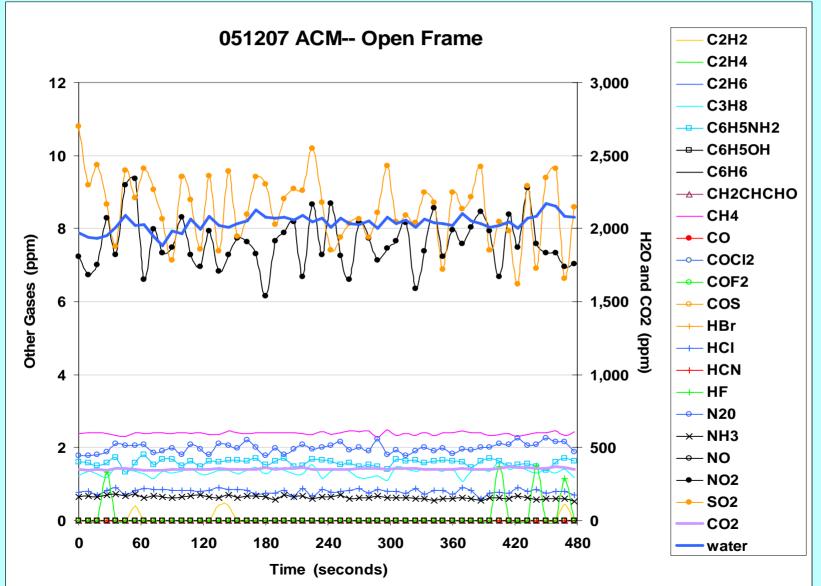
Concentration Histories of PAN Insulation System Box Test Obtained by Gas Analyzers





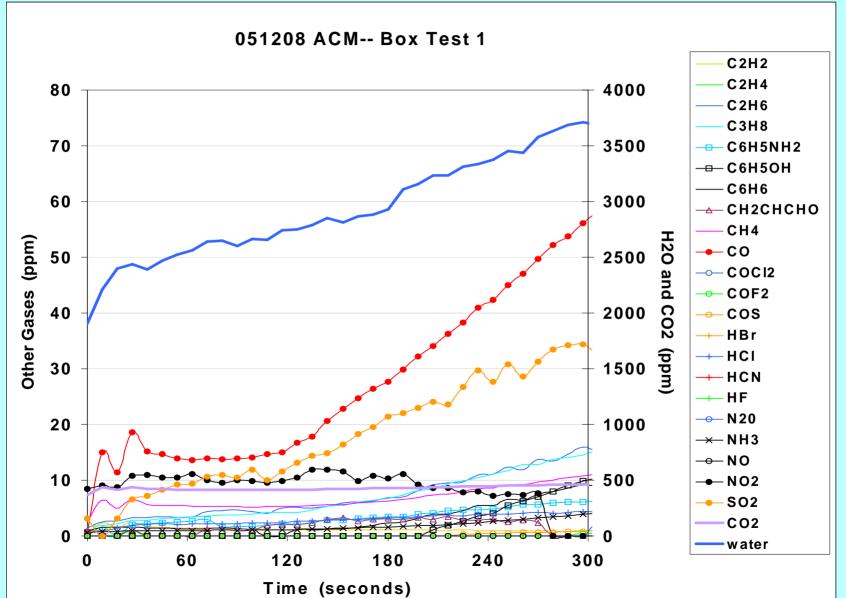
Concentration Histories of ACM in an Open Frame Obtained by FTIR Analysis





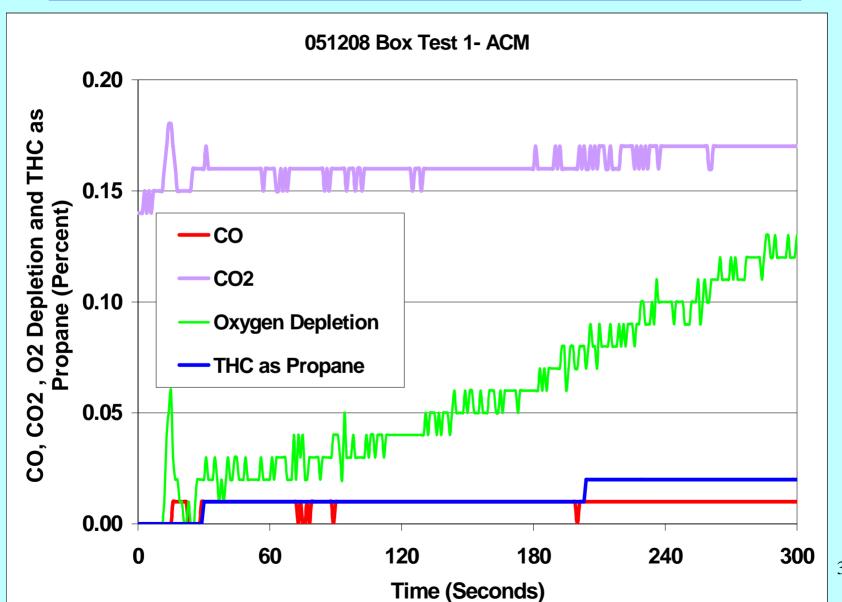
Concentration Histories of ACM Box Test Obtained by FTIR Analysis





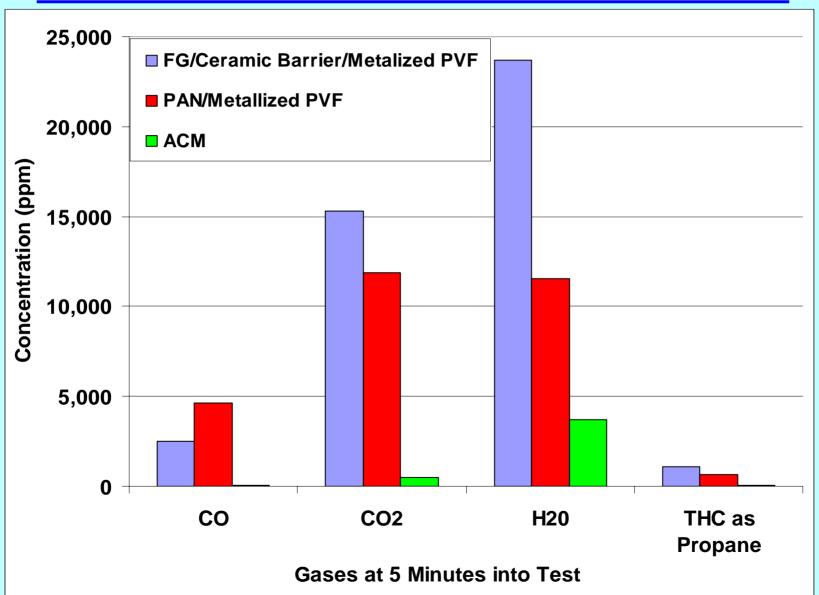
Concentration Histories of ACM Box Test Obtained by Gas Analyzers



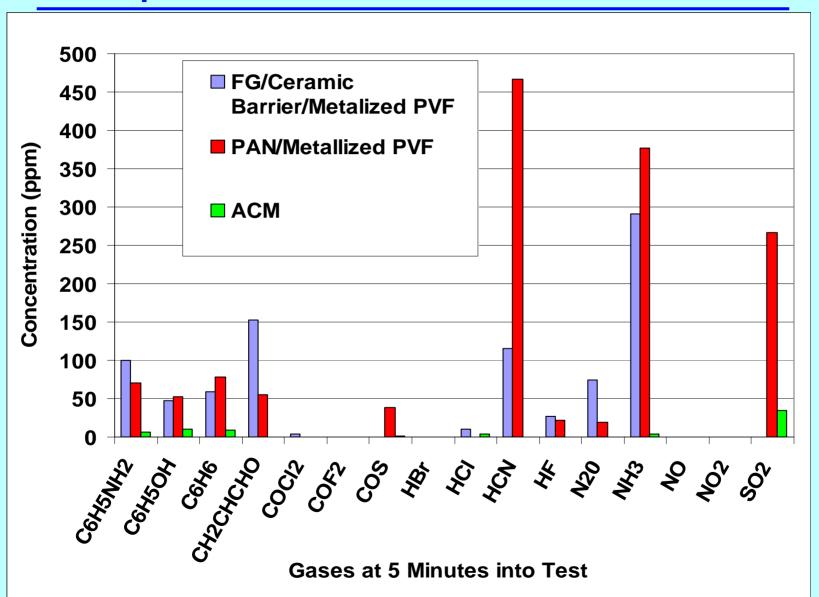


Comparison of Box Test Results at 5 Minutes





Comparison of Box Test Results at 5 Minutes



Full Scale Tests



- Upcoming full-scale tests will provide a scaling factor.
- Scaling factor will be applied to future box tests to predict full scale gas concentration histories.

Conclusion



- A prototype multi-ply structural composite material produced minimal toxic and flammable gases during a 5-minute fire exposure.
- The aluminum skin/insulation configurations generated much higher gas concentrations.
- 7 plies of the 13-ply composite panel were damaged by the fire